

Research Brief #127

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Student Athlete GPA Pre-post Student Athlete Academic Mentor

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At the request of The Learning Center, the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness examined the cumulative GPA of student athletes before and after the Student Athlete Academic Mentor (SAAM) was implemented. The SAAM started providing support and services to student athletes in the Learning Center beginning Fall 2015. The purpose of this analysis is to assess the impact of the SAAM on academic outcomes for student athletes. Specifically, this research is intended to answer the following questions:

- Is there a change in GPA for student athletes after the SAAM was implemented?
- How does this change compare to non-athlete students' GPA changes?

Method

To conduct the analyses, 320 enrollment files were obtained for two semesters prior to the start of SAAM's services. These data were merged with the student type data from informer to identify student athletes. The analysis was limited to student athletes with a full-time load.

Results

The mean GPA for all full-time students increased between Fall 2012 and Spring 2016. For student athletes there was a .32 increase in the mean GPA between Spring 2013 and Fall 2015 (when the SAAM was implemented). For all full-time COC non-athlete students, there was a .15 increase in mean GPA. The median GPA increased by .30 for athletes and by .09 for non-athletes between Spring 2013 and Fall 2015.

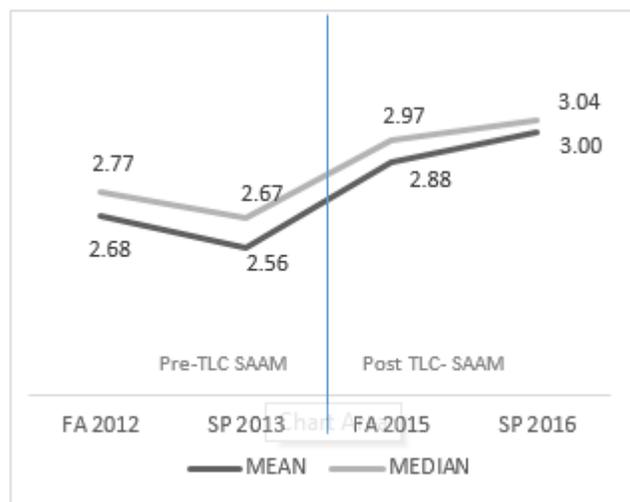


Figure 1. GPA for Full-time Student Athletes

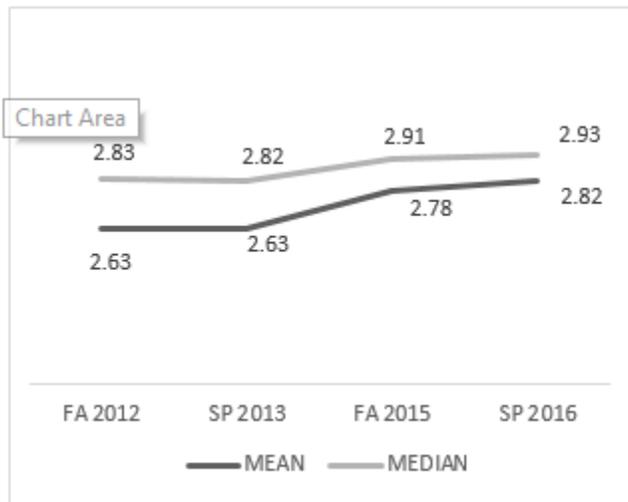


Figure 2. GPA for Full-time Non-Athlete Students

Recommendations

Upon review of the GPA analysis results for student athletes prior to and after the Student Athlete Academic Mentor was implemented, the following recommendations should be taken into consideration:

- Consider these results in conjunction with the SAAM student satisfaction survey brief (RB# 109).
- Explore other ways to gather feedback about the effectiveness of the SAAM.

For more detailed information on this research brief, stop by the Institutional Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness office located in BONH-224, or contact Preeta Saxena, Senior Research Analyst at 661.362.3072, or Daylene Meuschke, Dean of Institutional Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at 661.362.5329.

Action Implications

Upon review of the 2017 Student Athlete GPA Pre-post Student Athlete Academic Mentor Survey results, Brief #127, TLC will take into consideration the following recommendations:

Recommendations

Consider these results in conjunction with the SAAM student satisfaction survey (RB# 109)
Explore other ways to gather feedback about the effectiveness of the SAAM

Action Implications

- TLC will compare the results from Research Brief #109 with this brief (#127), to examine the ways the student athletes interacted with the SAAM, and the possible correlation between that and the increases in GPAs.
- TLC will develop other methods to gather feedback about the effectiveness of the Athletic Mentor; such as:
 - Request reports and studies to examine our low income, minority, and at-risk student-athletes that utilize the Athletic Mentor to determine if there is an improvement in their overall success;
 - Conduct studies on the increase in transfer rates, associate degrees, and completion amongst student-athletes that have utilized the Athletic Mentor;
 - Conduct faculty and staff surveys on the effectiveness of the Athletic Mentor on student-athlete academic achievement.